

NOVEMBER 6, 2008 PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2009 BUDGET

Present at meeting: Ralph Bentley Supervisor
 Frank Hill Councilman
 Kenneth Higgins Councilman
 Robert Olson Councilman

Arlene Mayer Town Clerk

Also: Mike Harpp, Brendon Himoff, Jim Murphy, Martin Meade, Frank Costello, Bill Bruce, Bob Harrison, Gary Frenz, Jim Hayes, Jack Higgins, Richard Blum, Tom Johansen.

Supervisor Bentley opened the public hearing. The clerk presented the legal notice from the Adirondack Journal.

Supervisor Bentley reported that the tax rate would be the same as last year.

The budget discussion opened with the Horicon Volunteer Fire Company's request for the remaining \$10,000 of their original \$50,000 request for 2009. The Board has voted to increase the Fire Company's code by \$40,000, but had tabled the remaining amount until Councilman Olson had an opportunity to review their budget. Councilman Olson said he does not discount the quality of the Fire Company's service, but is concerned over the 36% raise they have requested this year and feels that \$50,000 is too much increase. The Councilman spoke of the current economy and people everywhere making cuts in operating expenses. Councilman Higgins said he is not against the fire company, but the money comes from our taxpayers and the Board needs to try and cut where they can. Mike Harpp mentioned that the area is building up, with more houses to protect and the main reason for the increase is to build up the truck fund to prepare for the future and the increase in operating the department. Frank Costello said the fire tax rate is low here because of the Fire Company's frugality. The average increase for property owner would be \$3.00. Further discussion regarding the fact that Fire Company has had to use monies from the truck fund to cover unexpected repairs, as they do not have a contingency fund such as the Town does. Councilman Olson asked the fire company members to include some of the Town Board members next year when they begin their budget process. Bob Harrison said if purchase of new equipment keeps being delayed you end up spending/wasting more in repairs of old equipment. There followed a discussion regarding fire company members doing more fund raising to build up truck fund. Jim Hayes spoke of the amount of time invested in required training and extra time for fund raising is hard to come by. Jim Murphy said "equipment still needs to be replaced, no matter what the economy is". Councilman Olson would like the truck fund to become a "lock box", to prevent it being used for other purposes.

There were no further questions. The Town Board then agreed to increase the Fire Company code by the remaining \$10,000 making the amount \$217,973.00 which also includes money for the firemen's incentive program.

Supervisor Bentley said the fire tax would be 32.8 cents per thousand with the full increase. The fire tax will be lower than last year because of the increase in assessments. The total tax for Horicon is \$4.20 per thousand, which includes Town, County and Fire.

There being no further comments, Supervisor Bentley closed the public hearing at 6:40 PM.

RESOLUTION NO. 122 OF 2008

Messrs. Higgins & Hill introduced Res. 122 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2009 BUDGET FOR HORICON

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on November 6, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the Horicon Community Center on the Preliminary Budget for the year 2009, AND

WHEREAS, comments were invited from the public to speak for or against said budget, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Preliminary Budget, as amended, will be the adopted budget for 2009, with the General Fund Appropriations of \$1,789,562.00 less anticipated revenues of \$1,461,100.00 and an unexpended balance of \$328,462.00 leaving an amount to be

raised by taxes of -\$0-. Total Highway Fund Appropriations of \$1,228,387.00, less anticipated revenues of \$777,784.00 and an unexpended balance of -\$0-, leaving an amount to be raised by taxes of \$450,603.00 and a total budget of \$3,017,949.00, BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the amount for the Horicon Fire District is \$217,973.00 to be raised by taxes and the Schroon Lake Park District is \$35,000.00.

Hill-aye, Higgins-aye, Olson-aye, Bentley-aye

Councilman Hill said all departments should be advised to be extra careful with expenditures.

This being all the business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM by MOTION of Messrs. Hill & Higgins, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted: